

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00795 102211Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 /028 W
-----061233 111102Z /13

R 102030Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0795

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 058060; BARBADOS 0684

1. WHILE WE AGREE THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MAY BE A
LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR RDP ACTIVITIES, THERE ARE SEVERAL
REASONS WHY WE MUST OPPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL
RDP OFFICER IN PORT OF SPAIN.

2. THE FIRST PROBLEM IS ADMINISTRATIVE: OUR PHYSICAL
PLANT SIMPLY CANNOT ACCOMMODATE AN AID OFFICE.

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, IS THE CURRENT POLITICAL
ATMOSPHERE HERE WHICH IS HARDLY PROPITIOUS FOR THE
INAUGRRATION OF PERMANENT AND VISIBLE AID REPRESENTATION.
FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS
APPEARS TO BE IN A PARTICULARLY AUTHORITARIAN AND
VENGEFUL STATE OF MIND TOWARD REAL OR IMAGINED
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DOMESTIC OPPONENTS, TOWARD CARICOM, AND TOWARD THE
U.S. HE HAS HAD THESE PASSAGES BEFORE, AND HIS
FORM-CHART INDICATES THAT THEY MODERATE WITH TIME.
IN MEANTIME, HIS ECONOMIC ADVISORS WHO WOULD LIKE
TO DO BUSINESS IN THE RDP FIELD ARE HOLDING THEIR
BREATH AND TREADING LIGHTLY.

4. OUR SUGGESTION, IN EVENT THAT OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN LOCATIONS PROVE UNSATISFACTORY, IS TO INITIALLY GIVE THE PROPOSED CARACAS REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RDP COVERAGE HERE. HE OR SHE COULD QUIETLY BUILD ON THE RDP CONTACTS AND DIALOGUE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN INITIATED, AND WOULD THEREFORE BE WELL PLACED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPENINGS HERE WHEN AND IF THEY DEVELOP. IF THIS SUGGESTION IS ACCEPTED, WE WOULD CAUTION AID/STATE AGAINST ANY PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON TRINIDAD'S INCLUSION IN THE OFFICER'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT SIMPLY HAVE HIM/HER START OPERATIONS IN THE SAME FASHION AS LEGATTS AND OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO COVER TRINIDAD FROM CARACAS.
FOX

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